AMALGAM COMICS

SUPER SOLDIER

#1 APR 96

$1.95 US
$2.75 CAN

MARK WAID
DAVE GIBBONS

"The SPACE ROCKET landed in 1938.

"No one knew where it had COME from. Nothing IN it SURVIVED.

"Still, the U.S. ARMY took CELLULAR SAMPLES from the corpse WITHIN -- EXPERIMENTED with them --

" -- and -- by the time WORLD WAR TWO began -- ADDED them to their experimental 'SUPER-SOLDIER' formula, hoping to create a champion of LIBERTY.

"They INJECTED the formula into a 4-F VOLUNTEER -- one whose name I cannot here REVEAL --

" -- and exposed him to a MASSIVE jolt of SOLAR RADIATION. Given what they KNEW of the alien cells, the scientists had SOME clue as to how this might AFFECT the test subject --

" -- but NO one expected him to be granted POWERS and ABILITIES --

" -- so FAR BEYOND those of MORTAL MEN."

SUPER SOLDIER 1. April, 1996. Published by DC Comics, 1700 Broadway, New York, NY 10019, Copyright © 1996 DC Comics and Marvel Characters, Inc. All Rights Reserved. AMALGAM and all Amalgam characters, the distinctive likenesses thereof, names and related elements are jointly held trademarks of DC Comics and Marvel Characters, Inc. The stories, characters and incidents mentioned in this magazine are entirely fictional. For advertising space contact: East Coast, Tom Bellou, (212) 636-5520; Midwest, The Grafik Group (312) 539-5500; West Coast, The Berman Company (818) 865-9708. Printed on recyclable paper.
Printed in Canada. First Printing.
DC Comics. A division of Warner Bros. – A Time Warner Entertainment Company.

"That wasn't their ONLY surprise.
"They found ME in the SHADOWS, eager to make my MARK as a CUB REPORTER.
"Fortunately, we Olsens talk FAST. I struck a DEAL.
"I wouldn't rat out the PROJECT -- IF the government made me the OFFICIAL PRESS FLAK --
" -- of SUPER-SOLDIER.
"With MY HELP, ALLIED TROOPERS and NAZI WARMONGERS alike read of Super-Soldier's EVERY MOVE -- witnessed his EVERY VICTORY.
"By MARCH of 1942, Super-Soldier had the war all but WON nearly SINGLE-HANDEDLY -- "

* -- until the rise of ULTRA-METALLO.

*A MIGHTY ROBOT energized by a MYSTERIOUS POWER-SOURCE, Ultra-Metallo made a BEELINE for WASHINGTON, D.C. --

"America's CHAMPION... my FRIEND... was GONE...

"...leaving me with the STORY of the CENTURY... and an UNGODLY moral dilemma.

"Should I REPORT it? My ALLEGIANCE was to the TRUTH. Journalists deal in FACTS.

"And yet, I knew what a BLOW news of Super-Soldier's DEATH would be to ALLIED MORALE. with LEX LUTHOR still months away from perfecting the war-ending K-BOMBS, the Allies had to hold STRONG.

"In the END, I made my CHOICE. It was the HARDEST DECISION I ever had to MAKE... "

Daily

March 21st, 1942

"...HEAVEN HELP ME."

BOO-HOO.

WHAT A HEARTFELT CHARADE...YET THE TRUTH WILL OUT...

SUPER-SOLDIER WINS WAR

PRESIDENT RETIRES TO ANONYMITY

...CORRESPONDENT JAMES OLSEN

...WON'T IT, MR. OLSEN?

TIME HAS A WAY OF ERODING LIES.

MY JOURNALS... YOU HAVE MY JOURNALS...?

INDEED I DO...AND NOW, AFTER FIFTY YEARS, I ALSO HAVE THE TRUE STORY.

ULTRA-METALLO WAS, IN FACT, A SUCCESS...

...ALMOST. AFTER ALL, SUPER-SOLDIER WASN'T DEAD, WAS HE? RECENTLY, HE'S RESURFACED...YOUNG AS EVER...

...THOUGH MUCH WEAKER I'VE LONG WONDERED WHY...

...AND THANKS TO YOU...I NOW HAVE A CLUE.

WH—

KOFF

WHY?

YOU WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO CARE

THAT'S THE PRICE YOU PAY FOR CROSSING LEX LUTHOR.

DISPOSE OF HIM.

DAILY PLANET
"SHARON CRATER"?
I'M SORRY, MS. CARTER. REALLY SORRY. PLEASE DON'T BE MAD.
OH. FOR...
KENT, YOU SPINELESS WORM.
SOMETIMES I THINK YOU PASTE MY NAME UP WRONG JUST TO GET MY ATTENTION--
JIMMY?
...UNDERESTIMATED ME...THOSE RATS...
CHIEF?
LEARNED A FEW THINGS...ABOUT FIGHTING...FROM SUPER-SOLDIER...
JIM!
HE'S FALLING! SOMEBODY CATCH--
--HIM!
JIM, WHAT HAPPENED? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?
ANSWER ME!
...MY FRIEND...
HUH...
...HYDRA.
KIDNAPPED ME... BROUGHT ME IN...
IN? INTO WHERE?
FOUR.
KOFF!
WASHINGTON ...AT FOUR
WASHINGTON... AT FOUR...

SUPER★ SOLDIER

SECRET OF THE K-BOMBS

MARK WAID and DAVE GIBBONS
SCRIPT ★ CO-PLOT ★ ART and LETTERING

ANGUS McKIE
COLORS

MIKE McAVENNIE and KC CARLSON
EDITORS

DAMN YOU, LUTHOR.

FIVE DECADES. THAT'S HOW LONG I WAS FROZEN UNTIL THE JLA FOUND ME-- THAWED ME OUT--

--INTO A WORLD WITHOUT JUSTICE.

INTO A WORLD WHERE I'M GRADUALLY GETTING WEAKER WHILE YOU AND YOUR SECRET HYDRA CARTEL GROW STRONGER AND STRONGER.

THE PUBLIC THINKS YOU'RE A RECLUSIVE SAINT. ONLY I KNOW--

"--THAT YOU WERE BEHIND ULTRA-METALLO--

"--THAT YOU WANTED ME OUT OF THE WAY SO YOU COULD PROFIT FROM THE WAR ON YOUR OWN TIMETABLE.

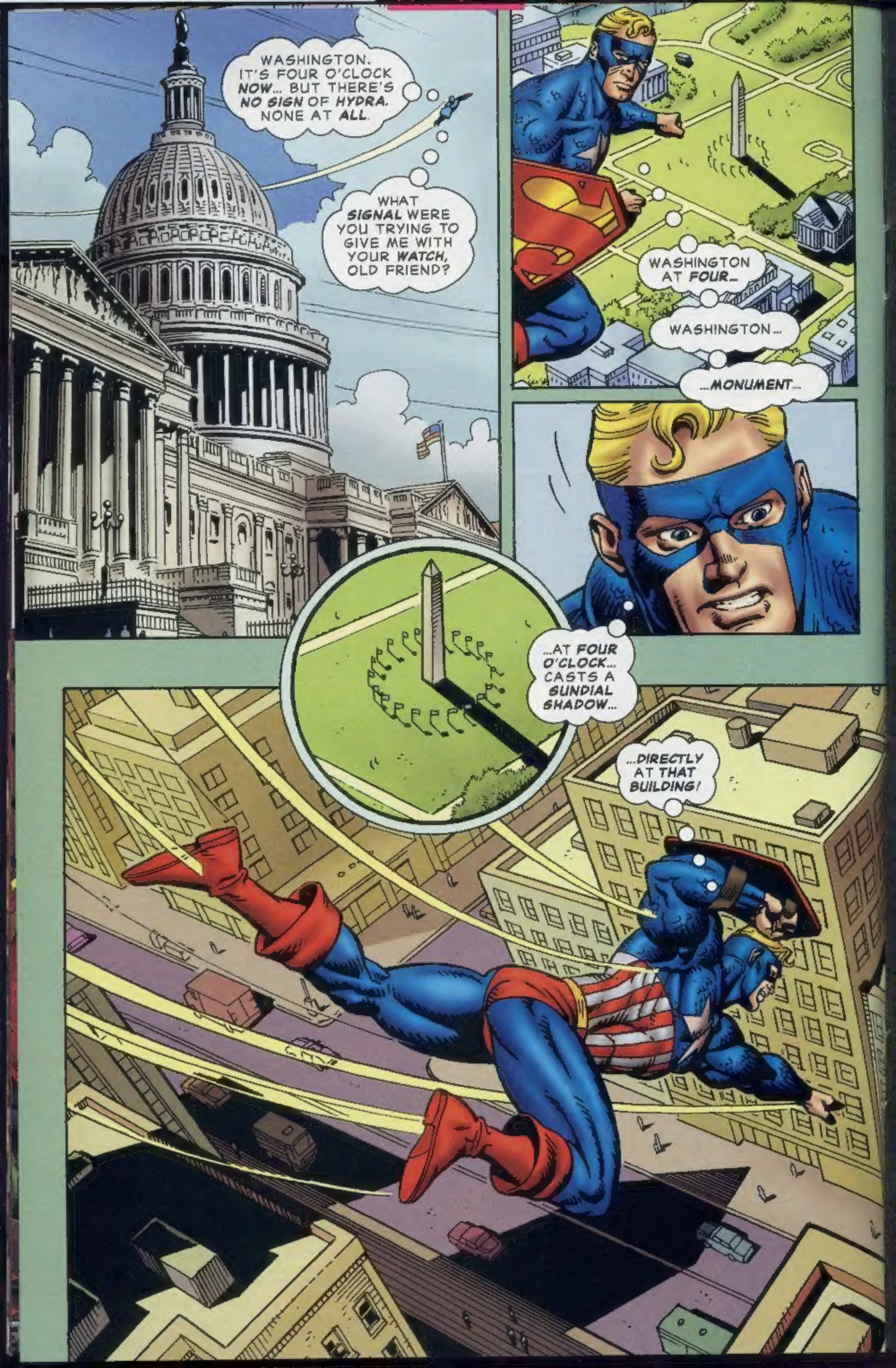
"RATHER THAN TRY TO PROVE IT, I WENT TOE-TO-TOE WITH YOUR CREATION ARMED WITH AN OVER-CONFIDENCE..."

...THAT COST ME VICTORY...AND WORSE...

...COST THE WORLD THE CHANCE TO BE FREE OF YOUR EVIL FOR THE NEXT HALF CENTURY.

THAT'S A SHAME I'LL MAKE UP FOR...

...IF IT TAKES MY DYING BREATH.


WASHINGTON. IT'S FOUR O'CLOCK NOW... BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF HYDRA. NONE AT ALL.
WHAT SIGNAL WERE YOU TRYING TO GIVE ME WITH YOUR WATCH, OLD FRIEND?
WASHINGTON AT FOUR...
WASHINGTON...
...MONUMENT...
...AT FOUR O'CLOCK... CASTS A SUNDIAL SHADOW...
...DIRECTLY AT THAT BUILDING!

THOOM!
SUPER-SOLDIER?
WHAT DID YOU WANT WITH OLSEN?
WHAT DID YOU DO TO HIM?
TALK! DO YOU HEAR ME?
TALK!
ACTUALLY...
...THEY HAVEN'T MUCH TO SAY.

LUTHOR!

AFTER ALL, I'M THE MASTERMIND HERE.

AND YOU MAY QUOTE ME.

COUNT ON IT. I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D BE CAUGHT HERE...EXPOSED IN HYDRA HEAD-QUARTERS...

...AFTER A LIFETIME OF POSING AS A TRAGIC, PHILANTHROPIC RECLUSE BELOVED BY THE MASSES?

SIGH

IT WOULD SEEM RISKY, WOULDN'T IT?

IT MUST BE THRILLING FOR YOU.

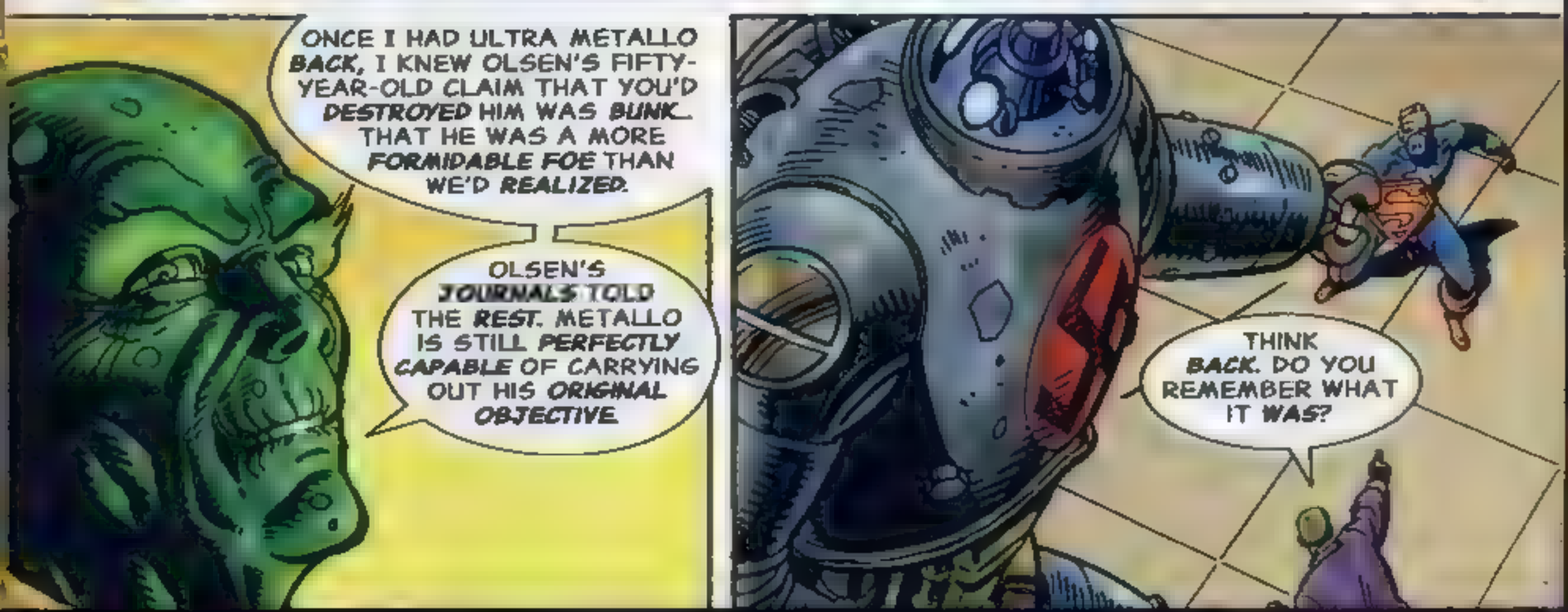
I IMAGINE YOU'LL WANT TO TELL THE WHOLE WORLD.

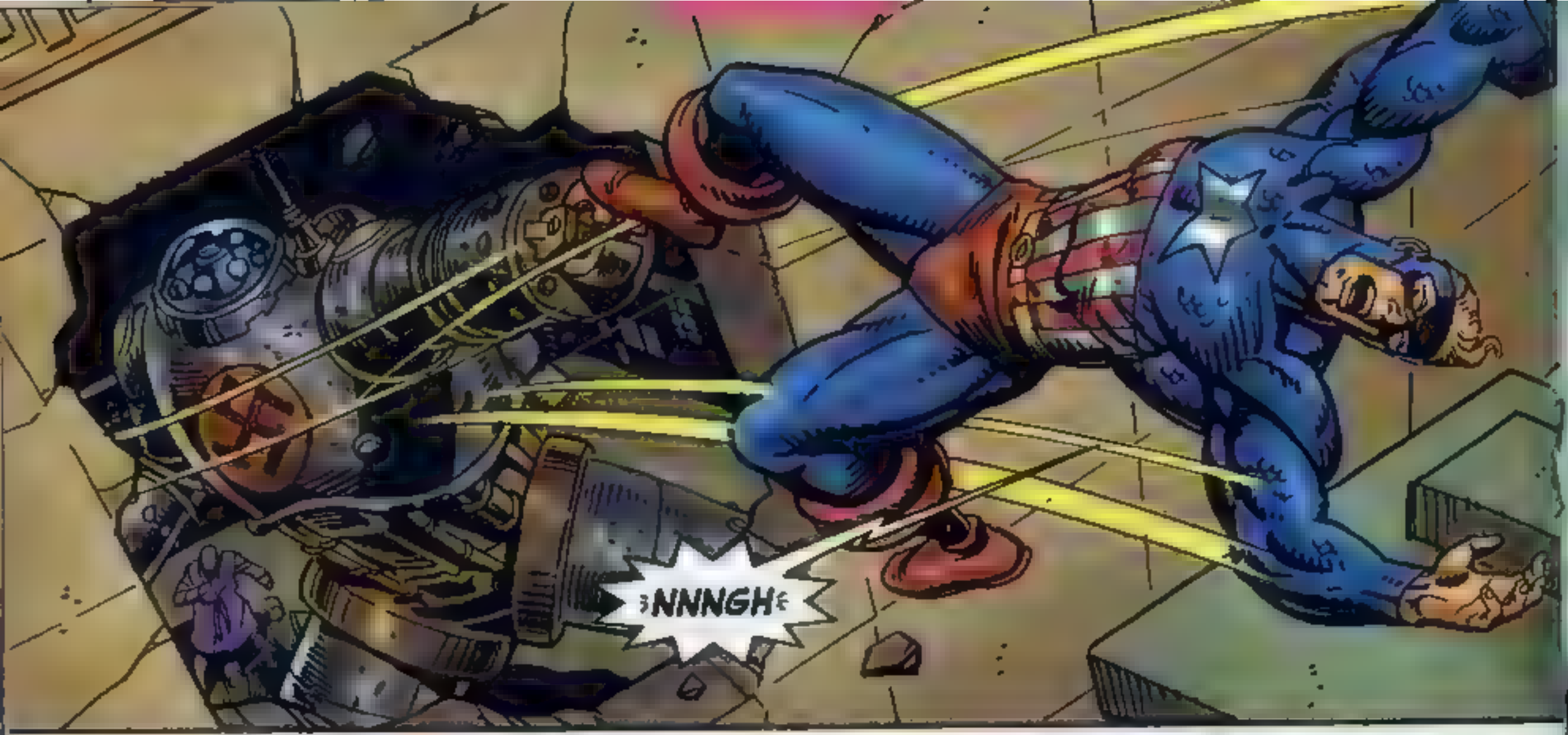
I CAN GUARANTEE THEY'LL READ ABOUT IT IN THE PAPERS.

LOOK WHAT WE STUMBLED ACROSS LAST WEEK WHILE TRAWLING THE NORTH SEAS.

IMAGINE HOW *SHOCKED* I WAS.

BUT THEN, YOU PROBABLY *CAN.*





AS IF IT WERE *YESTERDAY*—AND LUTHOR *KNOWS* IT.

ULTRA-METALLO HAS A *BOMB* PLANTED IN HIS CHEST! THE MOMENT HE REACHES THE *WHITE HOUSE*, IT *DETONATES*—

—AND *WASHINGTON, D.C.* TURNS TO *ASH!*

FIGHT ON, SUPER-SOLDIER! YOU CAN HEAR ME, CAN'T YOU?

OF COURSE YOU CAN--WITH WHAT'S LEFT OF YOUR SUPER-HEARING.

AND I CAN SEE YOU THROUGH METALLO'S CAMERAS--FROM THE SAFETY OF MY BUNKER.

I SUPPOSE THIS MIGHT BE AN ENTERTAINING BATTLE.

ONCE BEFORE, YOU FOUGHT HIM TO A STANDSTILL--WHEN YOU WERE AT YOUR PHYSICAL PEAK.

ONCE BEFORE

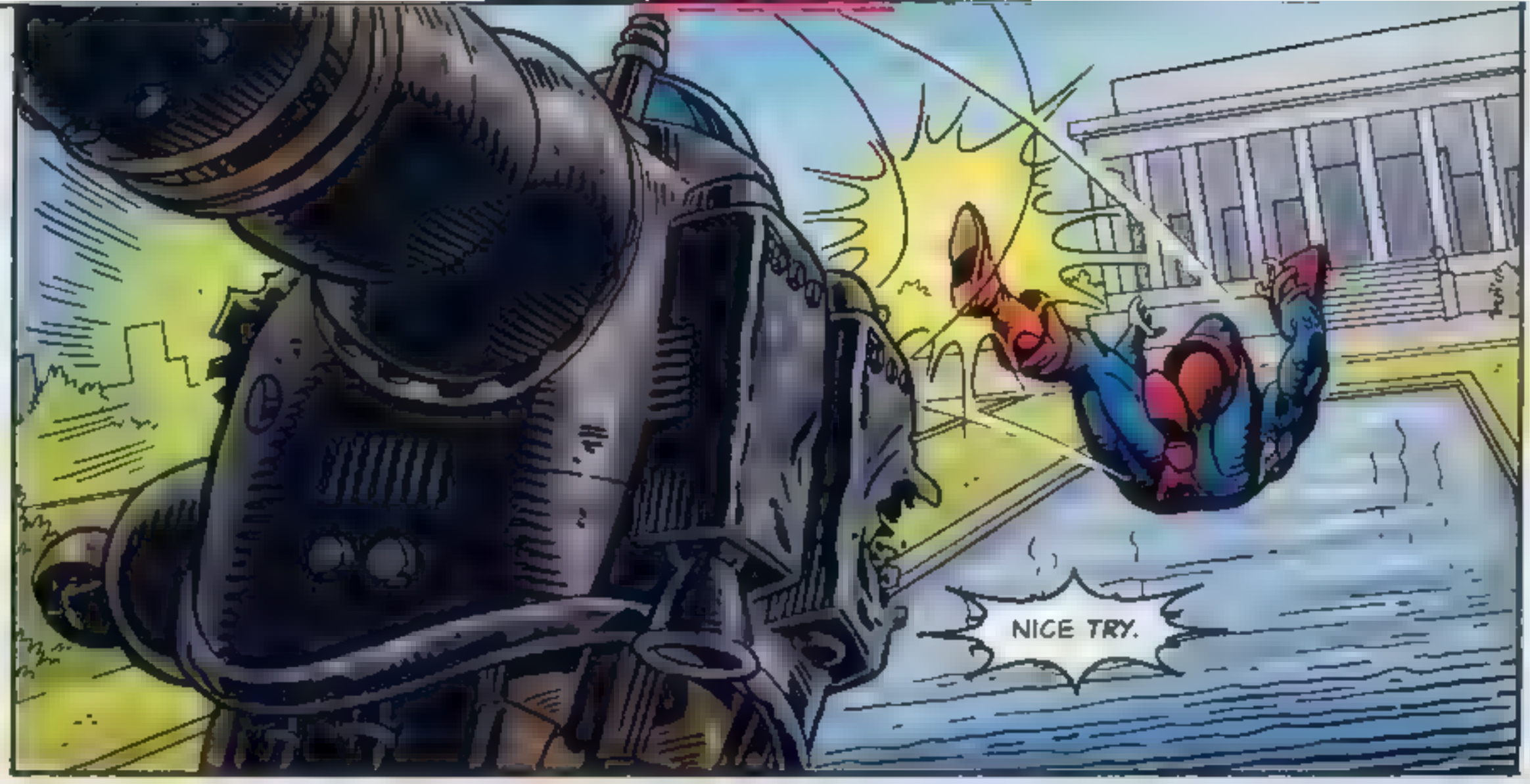
FWAM

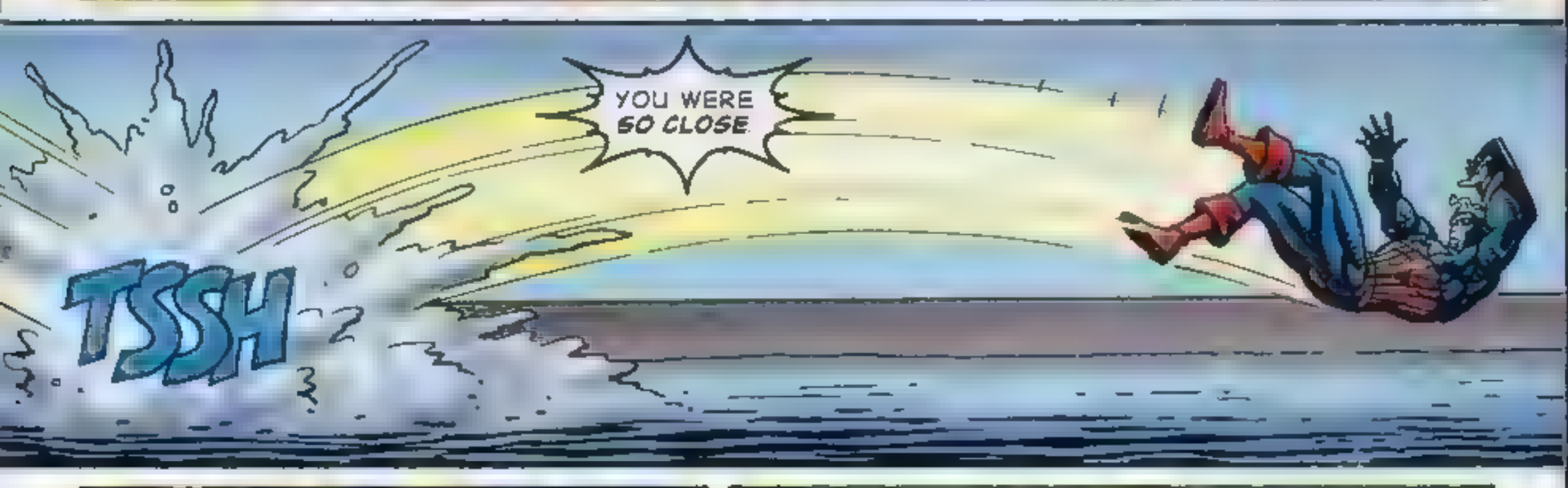
DANGER DEMOLITION

THOOM
SHUH!
LUTHOR'S...
...LUTHOR'S RIGHT. SOMETHING ABOUT METALLO SEEMS TO SAP MY POWERS EVEN FURTHER.
HE'S STRONGER THAN ME...
...BUT THAT'S NO EXCUSE TO GIVE UP. IF THERE'S A WAY TO OUTMANEUVER HIM...
...I'LL FIND IT.
SKRUNKK

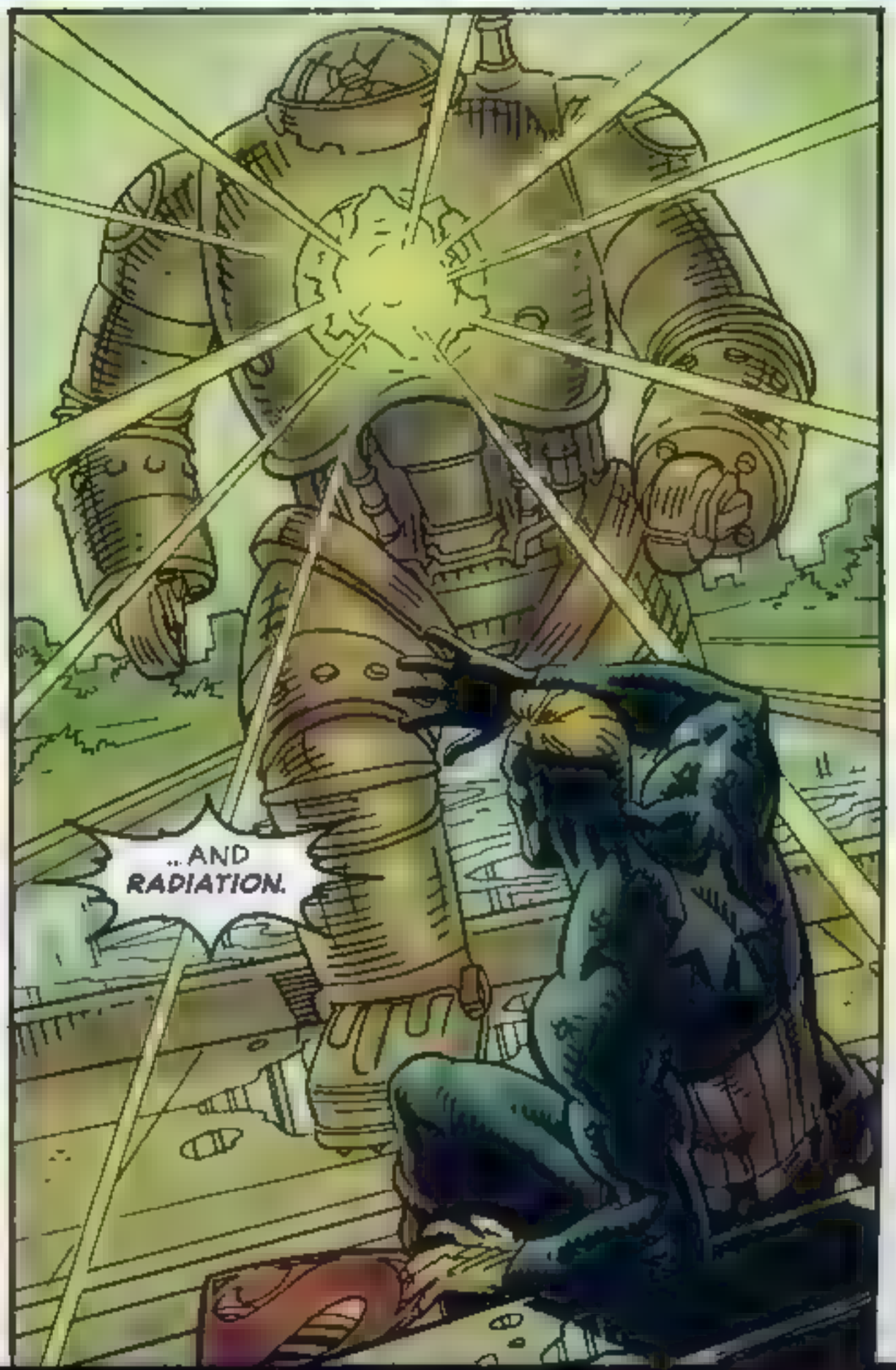
IF I CAN JUST GET TO THE BOMB—
YEAAARGH!
HURTS, DOESN'T IT? RADIATION'S A BEAR.
URANIUM? PLUTONIUM? NO. THE ROBOT'S DRIVEN BY A METEORITE THAT LANDED NEAR THAT OLD ALIEN ROCKET SHIP. I LIKE TO CALL IT THE KANSAS LODE—"KREEV-E" FOR SHORT.
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH IT. I INJECTED SOME INTO MY BLOODSTREAM, WHICH PROLONGED MY MISERABLE LIFE...
...CREATED MY K-BOMBS WITH THE REST...
...BUT THERE'S STILL ENOUGH INSIDE METALLO TO CREATE THE MOTHER OF K-BOMB EXPLO-SIONS...
UNNNNNNN...
...AS YOU'LL SEE

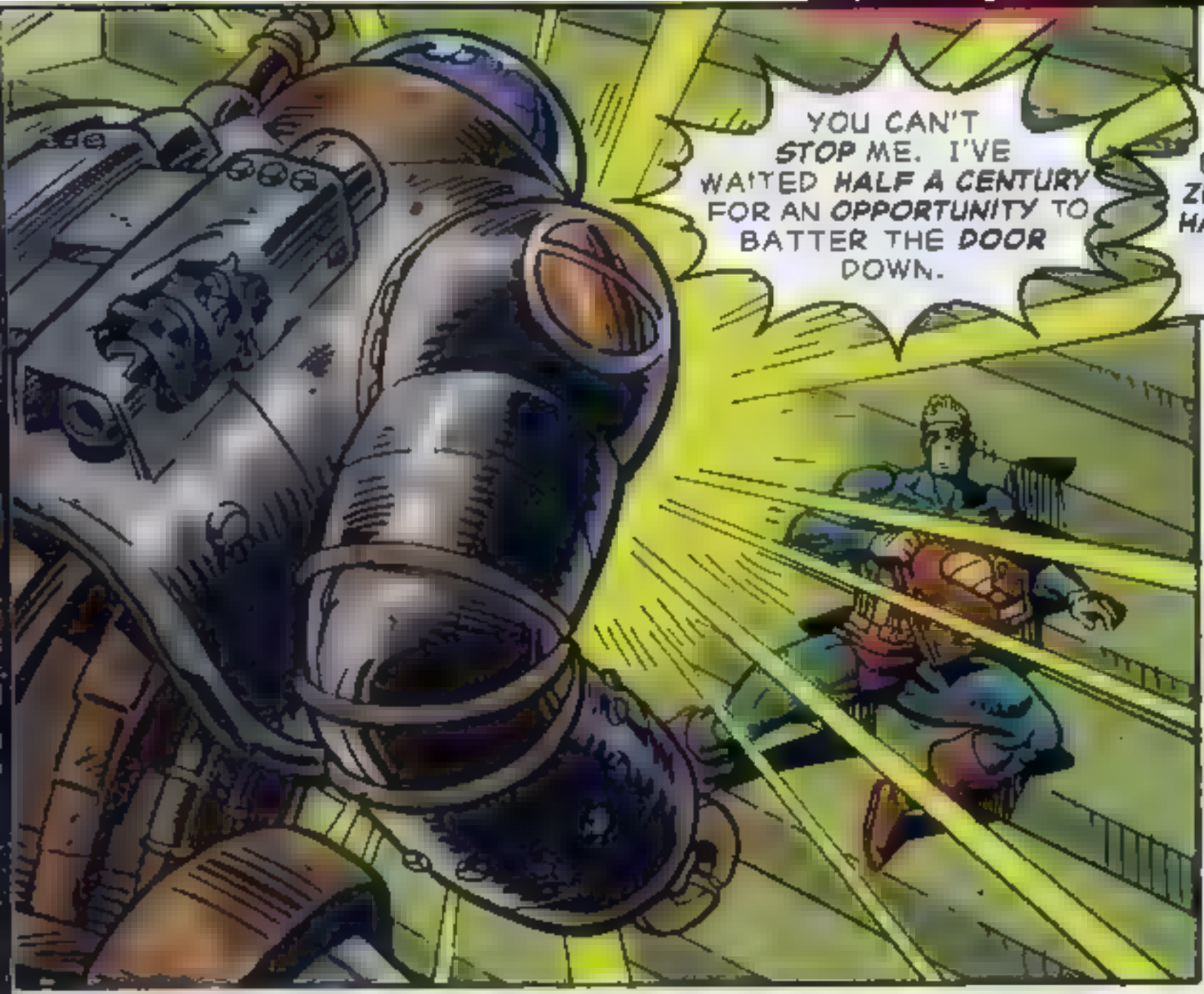
SO THAT'S IT.
THIS "K" DISRUPTS THE ALIEN CELLS IN MY SYSTEM...
...AND YET, EACH TIME METALLO KNOCKS ME ASIDE...
SUDDENLY GIVES ME A SECOND WIND...?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT--BUT I HAVE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT! I CAN'T LET THAT BOMB EXPLODE!
BY KEEPING IT INTACT, NOT ONLY CAN I SAVE THE CITY
BUT I CAN LINK LUTHOR CONCRETELY TO THIS TERRORIST ATTACK--
KRANG
--SINCE ONLY HE KNOWS THE SECRET OF THE K-BOMBS!


NICE TRY.


YOU WERE SO CLOSE.
TSSH

BUT CLOSE ONLY COUNTS IN HORSE SHOES, HAND GRENADES...
TSSH


...AND RADIATION.


YOU CAN'T STOP ME. I'VE WAITED HALF A CENTURY FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO BATTER THE DOOR DOWN.

ONCE THE OVAL OFFICE BECOMES GROUND ZERO, AMERICA WILL HAPPILY TURN TO LEX LUTHOR AND HIS FORTUNE FOR LEADERSHIP AND AID.

AND AS FOR YOU, YOU HAS-BEEN ...WELL...
...I ONLY REGRET THAT YOU HAVE BUT ONE LIFE TO LOSE FOR YOUR COUNTRY.

WHAT? YOU'RE RUNNING AWAY?
BEAUTIFUL! AT LAST, EVERYONE GETS TO SEE SUPER SOLDIER'S TRUE COLORS...
...RED, WHITE, AND YELLOW!
ONWARD, METALLO!

ONWARD!
KAPING
KAPING
CALL THE ARMY! WE HAVE TO STOP IT!
NOT A CHANCE! THE MILITARY WON'T MAKE IT IN TIME!
IT'S MOVING TOO FAST! IT...
WAIT!
LOOK.. UP IN THE SKY!
THRUNCH

THE PIPES.
THE ONES I LANDED IN WHENEVER METALLO BATTED ME ASIDE.
THEY WERE LEAD.
THEY'RE WHAT PROTECTED ME FROM THE K-RADIATION.
NOW, WITH METALLO PITTED LIKE AN OLIVE, I CAN TRAP THE K-BOMB INSIDE THE LEAD...
...AND THROW IT...
...UP... UP...AND AWAY!
NO!
TO HELL WITH YOU, SOLDIER! I WON'T BE DEFEATED LIKE THIS! DO YOU HEAR ME?
I'LL BLOW THE BOMB YET!

I WOULDN'T IF I WERE YOU
AND WHY NOT?

YOU'RE STILL WEAK! YOU CAN'T HOLD ME BACK!
FINE.

BE MY GUEST.
KRASH

NO! IT'S NOT FAIR! I'VE WAITED FIFTY YEARS FOR MY CHANCE TO TAKE YOU DOWN! FIFTY YEARS!

THAT MAKES TWO OF US, LUTHOR.
LET'S GO.

February 29, 1996

PLANET

LUTHOR EXPOSED

BEHIND WASHINGTON ATTACK

EXCLUSIVE BY JAMES OLSEN

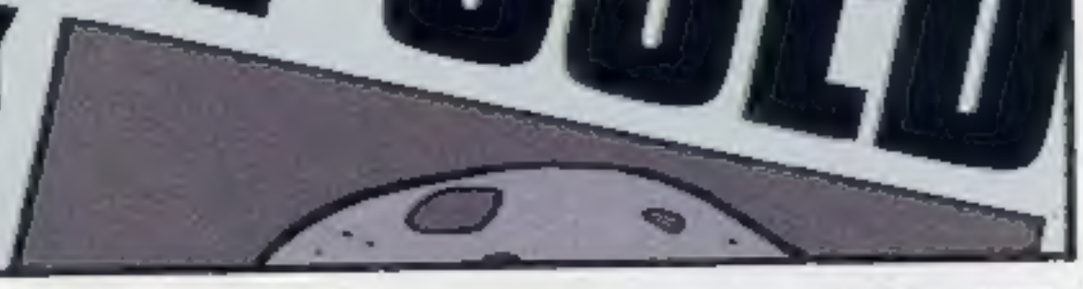
...ing unpublished scenes of destruction ...heart of Washington D.C., a bitter ...survivor of the Second World War ...bled by Super-Soldier only yards ...Oval Office.

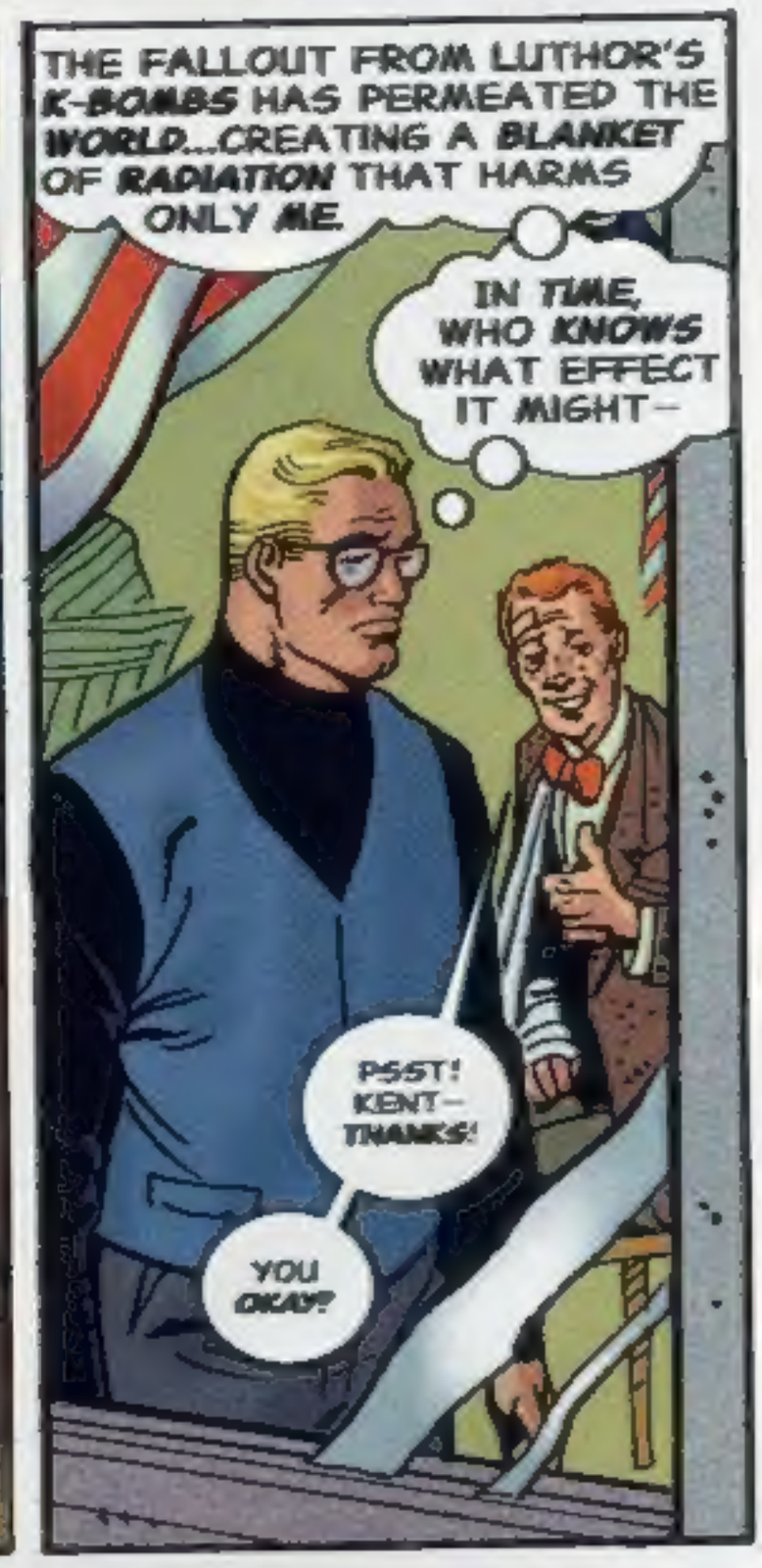
...d the Nazi who, code-named Ultra ...was a devotee of ...lled by the ...

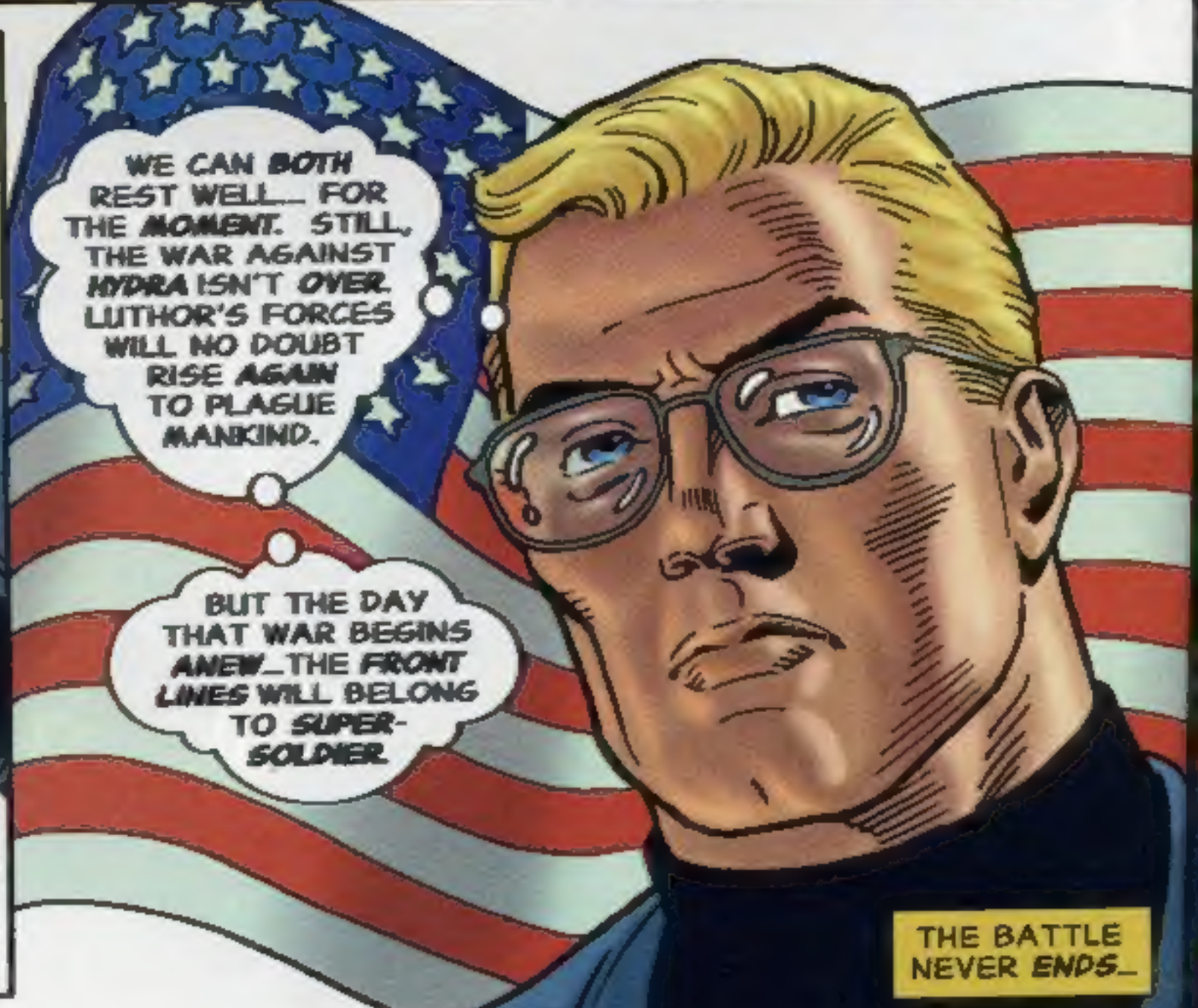
...and supposed philanthropist, Lex Luthor.

It was the research work he funded on the mysterious element from space that led to the development of the K-Bomb.

He now stands accused of plotting the murder of hundreds of ...Americans, including ... and the ...







MAIL CALL

Despite a more than fifty-year hiatus, Super-Soldier's recent return to comics in the pages of JUDGMENT LEAGUE AVENGERS and ACTION & SUSPENSE COMICS has generated tons of mail, all of it demanding that our greatest American hero star in his own book! Therefore, we Amalgamites have finally gotten the hint and done it! With Mark Waid and Dave Gibbons bringing us Truth, Liberty and the American Way every month, SUPER-SOLDIER will be bigger and better than ever!

But hey, you're not here to hear us babble, so let's just check out your comments regarding ACTION & SUSPENSE #59!

Super-Soldiers:

Finally, you've given this old war horse a dream come true. When I fought in World War II, I wasn't much older than Super-Soldier's sidekick, James Olsen, but I was a big fan of the character. Some of the boys and I read every issue of SUPER-SOLDIER ACTION; even our C.O. would get into the act, reading them out loud to those who were interested (which, by the end of each story, was pretty much everyone in our infantry).

Then, he suddenly disappeared. I understood that the recycling of paper became crucial to the war effort at that point, but we missed having Super-Soldier on the field with us—me especially. Even though we won the war, I felt like I'd lost a comrade in arms.

And now, here I am, fifty years later. The war has long since ended. Countries we once fought are now our allies. It's a different world. I've grown up in that world, altering my beliefs with the times. But my love for my favorite hero has never altered. And now you've brought him back. Bravo.

Seeing Super-Soldier both thawed out back in JUDGMENT LEAGUE AVENGERS #4 and appearing solo in ACTION & SUSPENSE #59 has brought back an era of greatness, as a friend whom I thought long lost in battle returned. And, like I did, he must make many adjustments in today's society. Fortunately, I had fifty years to do so. Clark Kent does not have that luxury.

Even more amazing is how you've also brought back Luthor and Hydra, Super-Soldier's archenemies from the war. Your writer and artist, Mark Waid and Dave Gibbons, have brilliantly thrown our hero right into the thick of battle once more. And if that weren't enough, you've even brought back Olsen, now editor of the very paper for which he was a cub reporter. Seeing Clark's reaction to a friend who was once almost half his age now looking more than twice his age was pure genius, and very touching. My heart goes out to Clark. And my heart goes out to all of you over at Amalgam, for bringing back my dear old friend.

SIMON SHUSTER
Cleveland, OH

The pleasure's all ours, Simon. Your letter brought tears of joy around the Amalgam office, and further convinces us that Super-Soldier is a timeless hero whose story—after six decades in the making—has only begun!

Dear Amalgamaniacs:

Super-Soldier? Super-Soldier?!? A fifty-year-old has-been who must rediscover both himself and the new world surrounding him is the best you can do?

Guess I can live with that. May the battle for Truth, Liberty and the American Way never end! MAKE MINE AMALGAM!

OTTO STERNBYRNE
Fairfield, CT

P.S. Let's see Super-Soldier and Amazon hook up! They'd make a perfect couple!

That is an interesting match, Otto, and who knows? Perhaps something'll come out of their meeting over in JLX #4! What exactly, you ask? Sorry—that's classified!

Dear Amalgamites:

ACTION & SUSPENSE #59 was yet another reason why Super-Soldier's return is an event that's destined to make comics history. While I was too young for his original adventures back in WW II, I read some of my grandfather's old SUPER-SOLDIER comics, which he'd given me after I cleaned out his attic (a superhuman feat, I assure you). After reading them, I could only wonder why it took you guys all these years to bring him back.

One thing I really liked about A & S #59 is the way you're integrating Super-Soldier into the nineties. I'm still amazed that you'd take such a bold step; I mean, giving us the exact same hero after a fifty-year absence! Even more amazing is that Mark Waid and Dave Gibbons made Clark Kent a fresh and interesting character who shows no sign of age. Too bad the same can't be said for James Olsen and ol' green-skull himself, Lex Luthor (though Super-Soldier is justifiably concerned about his reduced abilities. Will you follow up on that any time soon?)

Well, with Yesterday's Man of Tomorrow appearing in both ACTION & SUSPENSE and JLX, it looks like Super-Soldier is going to live a much longer life than his previous time out. And I couldn't be happier.

KIRBY SIEGEL
Brooklyn, NY

P.S. Grandpa and I have a bet. He says Super-Soldier always fought solo, but an editorial reference in SUPER-SOLDIER ACTION #14 leads me to suspect that he was part of a team back in the forties. Can you confirm this? Loser pays for the next two steak dinners!

Order king-sized steaks, Kirby ol' pal, 'cause you're absolutely right! Super-Soldier was part of a team—the All-Star Winners Society, who appeared in ALL-STAR WINNERS COMICS. The book only lasted about a year and a half, and ended with SUPER-SOLDIER ACTION and many other titles during the paper rationing for the war effort. And hey, while you're chowin' down with Gramps, tell him he also has to pick up JLX #1 (now on sale!), in which Yesteryear's Man of Tomorrow is a member!

In addition, as you probably read this very issue, the fallout from Luthor's K-Bombs was the contributing factor to Super-Soldier's growing weakness. Only time will tell if the weakness will abate on its own or take its toll on our Star-Spangled Man of Steel!

—Smilin' Mike "The Man" McArlson
Part-time shield varnisher.

NEXT ISSUE: He's a strange visitor from another planet. How does our hero feel about this? Well, he'd probably be happier if the alien wasn't chokin' the life outta him! He's big! He's unstoppable! He's...DOOMNAUT! And he's arriving in thirty days, courtesy of Waid and Gibbons! This ish is also a prelude to our multipart epic "Reign of the Super-Soldiers," so you'll hate yourselves for missing this one!

So, whaddaya think of our American-made marvel's first solo cover in over fifty years? Bringing new glory to Old Glory in D.C. was artist extraordinaire Dave Gibbons, and masterfully red, white and hued by Angus McKie!

AMALGAM

AMALGAM COMICS, 1700 BROADWAY, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10019

JENETTE KAHN PRESIDENT & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF PAUL LEVITZ EXECUTIVE VP & PUBLISHER
KC CARLSON & MIKE McAVENNIE EDITORS
JOE ORLANDO VP — CREATIVE DIRECTOR TOM BALLOU VP — ADVERTISING BRUCE BRISTOW VP — SALES & MARKETING
PATRICK CALDON VP — FINANCE & OPERATIONS TERRI CUNNINGHAM MANAGING EDITOR CHANTAL D'AULNIS VP — BUSINESS AFFAIRS
LILLIAN LASERSON VP & GENERAL COUNSEL BOB ROZAKIS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR — PRODUCTION